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ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
APR 27 1978

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the gull

Volume 60

Berkeley, Calif.

May 1978

Number 4 ¹⁰⁵

Plan a Picnic in the Park

Our third annual May picnic membership meeting to be held Thursday evening, May 18, will include two nature walks and an excellent program on Death Valley, given by Bill Nobel. Pack your favorite picnic dinner and join your fellow members at the Tilden Park Environmental Center around 6 p.m. (earlier if you pack something to be savored at length). At 6:30 you will have the choice of taking a wildflower walk led by Dick Anderson or a birding walk with Bob O'Brien. Both will get you back to the Environmental Center building in time for the 7:30 program.

Bill Nobel is an accomplished naturalist with much experience teaching natural history and backpacking in Death Valley. His slides provide a look within the delicate and sensitive natural processes of the desert. Slides of the display of spring wildflowers are included, as are those of birds and animals. Conservation is an increasingly important issue for Death Valley as more people discover its beauty each year. Bill will share his views on conservation in the Valley.

If you've not attended a monthly program before, why not make this enjoyable annual event your first?

—RAY HASEY, *Program Chairman*

Field Trips Calendar

Tuesday, May 9—Mini trip to the San Francisco Presidio to see the Hooded Orioles. Meet at 9 a.m. at the main Muni bus station inside the Presidio at Lincoln Blvd. and Anza (Muni buses #45, 28 and 43). If time and weather permit, we'll "take to the woods" nearby. Lunch optional. Leader: Donna Dittman (468-2688).

Sunday, May 14—Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** in the parking lot of the Pt. Reyes Seashore headquarters to carpool for a shuttle trip. We'll walk 3 to 4 miles from Five Brooks back to Bear Valley, hoping to see many resident and spring birds as well as numerous wildflowers along the trail. Bring lunch. Leader: Gloria Markowitz (892-2910, Novato). (✓)

Saturday, May 20—Audubon Canyon Ranch, Bolinas. Take either Hwy. 1 or the Panoramic Hwy. over Mt. Tamalpias to Stinson Beach — the Ranch is 3 miles north on Hwy. 1. Coming from the north, take Sir Francis Drake Blvd. through Fairfax to Olema. Turn left on Hwy. 1 and go south to the Ranch. We will walk up to the Ranch overlook to see the nesting Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets and their young. Meet at **10:30 a.m.** Bring lunch. (✓)

Wednesday, May 24—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the parking lot on Arlington Ave. near the Kensington Library and Community Church to carpool. We should see Black-headed Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Orange-crowned and Wilson's Warblers, Warbling Vireos and many more. Lunch optional. Anyone needing a ride call leader Ruth Voss (535-8652).

Sunday, May 28—Tennessee Valley. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** and bring lunch. Going north across the Golden Gate Bridge, take the Mill Valley exit under the Richardson Bay Bridge and in $\frac{1}{2}$ mile turn left at the Tennessee Valley sign. Drive about a mile to the end of the road. We will walk on a level trail to see land and sea birds and maybe a Great Horned Owl. Leader to be announced. (✓)

Wednesday, May 31—Stevens Creek, Saratoga. Leave Hwy. 280 at the Foothill Expressway at the Grant Road offramp and turn south. Follow North Foothill Blvd. (which becomes South Foothill and Stevens Canyon Road) for 2 miles. Look for the parking lot below on the left. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** and bring a lunch. Many different species are found in this area. Leader: Phil Hand (493-5876).

Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4—Yosemite National Park. This trip will emphasize general natural history of the area as well as birds. Meet on **Saturday** at **9 a.m.** at Yosemite Falls parking lot (across from Yosemite Lodge) and on **Sunday** at **8 a.m.** at the same location. For room or tent cabin reservations, call Yosemite Park & Curry Company (209) 373-4171 as soon as possible. Leader: George Peyton (531-5588). (✓)

Published monthly by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, office address 2718 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705. Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Berkeley, Ca.

Friday-Sunday, June 23, 24 & 25—Lassen Volcanic National Park. Join us during the last weekend of June for birding and hiking at Lassen National Park. We will meet daily at the store in the Manzanita Lake Campground at **6:15 a.m.** for a couple of hours of early morning birding. **Friday** and **Sunday** we will meet again at **10:15 a.m.** for our midday hike to one of Lassen's many beautiful meadows or lakes. These hikes are most productive for wildflowers and scenery. The mornings at Manzanita Lake will be quite productive for birds. Last year we saw more than 50 species of birds including Townsend's Solitaire, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher and a few people even saw a Black-Backed-Three-Toed Woodpecker. The midday hikes will be geared for small children. On **Saturday** we will meet at **10 a.m.** to bird the area north of the park as far as Burney Falls where we should see Black Swifts and Bald Eagles.

Wear sturdy shoes and pack a lunch and water.

From the Bay Area drive north on I-5 to its junction with Highway 44 in Redding. Go east on Hwy. 44 to the northwest entrance of Lassen Volcanic National Park. Camping facilities are available at Manzanita Lake. Lodging is available north of the park at Hat Creek (about 15 miles) and at Burney (about 35 miles). For details write to Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mineral, CA 96063. All activities will begin at the store in the Manzanita Lake Campground. Be sure to check the Park bulletin boards for further details and changes in the field trip schedule. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy (564-0074).

Carpooling: The trips marked (✓) are those for which carpooling can be arranged. If you need a ride or can offer one, call Kate Partridge at 849-1951 (home) or 642-5784 (work, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.). It should be understood that transportation expenses are to be shared by passengers.

Further dates: June 17-18, Yuba Pass. Details in the June *Gull*.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

March Observations

The March doldrums are that slack time between exciting winter birding and the full force of a returning spring. This year was no exception. A number of our rare winterers lingered on (see previous *Gulls* for details): the irregularly appearing **Emperor Goose** at Moss Landing through 26 March, Harlequin Ducks at Brisbane and Monterey and Tropical Kingbirds at Lake Merced through 4 March and Belmont 26 March. Wintering warblers were still present: at least one of the Tennessees in Pacific Grove, the delightful **Magnolia** at Pajaro, Monterey

County, Palms there and in Santa Cruz and the American Redstart at Watsonville.

The ocean, however, continues to fascinate. Rumors of "white" albatross from the Cordelle Banks off Bodega Bay have persisted from fishermen during the past several winters, but organized trips had failed to find them. But birders aboard the fishing boat *Sea Angler* had success: two **Laysan Albatross** on 21 March (AS) and one seen 24 March (LS *et al*). An earlier trip to those waters had produced two or three **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** on 17 March, plus one or two Short-tailed Shearwaters, a Manx Shearwater, only two Northern Fulmars (this is not a flight year) and two more reports of winter Xantus' Murrelets (BS, DS). This brings the total of this winter's Flesh-footeds to five; there were only two previous records.

Monterey Bay had three Manx Shearwaters, one Short-tailed and three Ancient Murrelets (locally scarce this winter) on 20 March (RS, DR, DE, BS *et al*). Another Manx was seen from shore at Pigeon Point 1 April (VR). The number of Manx's this winter is unprecedented — but then it has been a strange year for pelagics so far.

Of local interest were two Red-shouldered Hawks at Pt. Pinole 18 March (locally rare in the East Bay - SA), an inland Red-throated Loon at Lafayette Reservoir 16 March (JM) and two cooperative Saw-whet Owls found roosting near the Coyote Hills interpretive center beginning 11 March and viewed at close range all month (JM *et al*) — they were originally discovered during an adult school bird class by an inquisitive student. A bit further afield were a flock of 84 White-faced Ibis in Stanislaus County 27 March (DR) — encouraging news, as this species has suffered major declines in the state — and two rarely found dark phase Ferruginous Hawks in San Mateo and Monterey counties 11-12 March (LCB *et al*).

The female **Blue-throated Hummingbird** reported last month in Tulare County as the first state record astounded everyone by laying eggs which hatched at Easter. No male was ever seen in the area; the safest bet on the yet-unidentified babies is that they are Blue-throated X Anna's hybrids (which has occurred in Arizona). Whatever they are, it was a fascinating event.

Though March can be described as dull, there are ways to spice it up. On the 12th the team of Laurence C. Binford, Dick Erickson, Don Roberson and Barry Sauppe set the new national record for a March Big Day. A Big Day is the number of birds seen from midnight to midnight in one day by a team of birders who remain within conversational distance the entire time and manage to have 95% of the total species identified by all. It's a constant race against the clock to find as

many species as possible. The record setting team identified 168 species in Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties on a carefully planned 150-mile route. Extremely high winds all day hampered the effort, but such rarities as Harlequin Duck, Golden Eagle, Northern and Red Phalarope, Tennessee and Magnolia Warbler and Chipping Sparrow were recorded.

The previous March American Birding Association (ABA) acceptable record was 151 set in Texas in 1974. The new 168 total brings the March record to California by a wide margin. California now owns the ABA record for all months except August. Binford has been on seven of the record setting teams, Erickson and Roberson on four; this was Sauppe's first record-setter. The all-time ABA record is 207 set in Southern California on April 25, 1976, by a team comprised of Jon Dunn, Kimball Garrett, Paul Lehman and Van Remsen.

Observers: Steve Abbors, Laurence C. Binford, Dick Erickson, Eugene and Akiko Makishima, Joe Morlan, Van Remsen, Don Roberson, Larry Sansone, Dave Shuford, Arnold Small, Bruce Sorrie, Rich Stallcup.

—DON ROBERSON, *Observations Editor*

2244 Encinal Ave. #5, Alameda, CA 94501 (865-2462)

Conservation Notes

OCEAN OIL. The Department of the Interior is now inviting public comment on its proposal to lease oil and gas drilling rights off the California coast from San Luis Obispo to the Oregon border in 1981. This is reportedly the result of oil company pressure on the department as well as steadily increasing domestic energy demands. The effects of a big oil spill or blowout are well known by now. It would be disastrous to the northern marine ecology, destroying salmon runs for years, killing sea otter and bird life and ruining miles of coastline. There will soon be a glut of Alaska oil coming to our shores—if it isn't all sold to Japan—and there is now a shortage of on shore refinement and storage facilities.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Massachusetts has granted a motion by the state and environmental groups enjoining the Interior Department from receiving bids for oil and gas leases involving sea tracts off Nantucket Island, which include some of the North Atlantic's richest fishing grounds. The suit charges U.S. Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus and Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps with failure, by scheduling and failing to stop the sale, to fulfill their obligations under federal law to protect and conserve fishing rights, fishery resources and

the marine environment of the North Atlantic. This decision, upheld by a federal court of appeals, is now being appealed to the Supreme Court by the oil companies.

ALASKA LANDS. A strong Alaska wilderness bill has finally emerged from the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. HR 39, as it now stands, would establish 95 million acres of new national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests and wild and scenic river systems. About 75 million acres of this would be preserved as total wilderness. Attempts by vested interests to weaken the bill considerably were mostly beaten back, but HR 39 is still going through process (now in the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries' Committee, it should be reported out by late April). Congress has until November to establish legislation for the protection of the Alaska wildlands. We urge everyone to let support of these most important conservation decisions be known.

WILDERNESS POLL. A recent nationwide poll has shown that the American people clearly favor wilderness and natural resource preservation. The poll was conducted to measure attitudes towards forest-related recreation versus development. It placed special emphasis on attitudes towards wilderness and, ironically, it was by the "American Forest Institute," a timber industry group which probably was not especially pleased by the results. For instance, by a 2-1 margin, Americans favor preservation of our national forests rather than increased timber harvesting. Also, while 7% of the public feels that there is too much wilderness, almost 33% feels there is too little.

This trend towards a heightened awareness of the environment was also indicated last month by the announcement that the Audubon Society's *Field Guide to North American Birds* was close to making the best seller list!

ENDANGERED SPECIES. A fully grown grey wolf was found dead in a steel-jaw trap in southwestern Oregon last winter. It was the first wolf seen in the region for nearly 50 years and hopefully indicates that this endangered species is slowly extending its range back into the Southern Cascades again. However, at about the same time, the Interior Department announced that the southern form of the Bald Eagle, America's symbol for 200 years, has been placed on the endangered species list in most of the lower 48 states; in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Oregon its status is called "threatened."

WHALE CENTER. The Whale Protection Fund has opened a "Whale Center" in Oakland. Headed by Maxine McCloskey, past president of Project Jonah, the center has documents, a research library, educational material on whales and whale conservation and gift items. The Center invites visitors to its office at 3829 Piedmont Ave.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

*An Invitation to
Golden Gate
Audubon Society's
Annual Dinner*



Friday, June 9, 1978

San Francisco is the location for this year's Annual Dinner, to be held on Friday, June 9. A very exciting restaurant has been chosen — The Great Electric Underground in the Bank of America center in the financial district. The Great Electric Underground is administered by the same people who manage the famed Carnelian Room on the 52nd floor.

A fine menu is being planned as well as a superb program. Gary Bogue, who presented such a well-received program on the Bald Eagle for our February meeting, will be our speaker; his topic will be mountain lion rehabilitation.

Come join your fellow Auduboners for an evening of friendship and good food in a new and festive setting. Parking and public transportation are both convenient. Dinner is at 6:30, preceded by a social hour.

Please make checks payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, and mail to the GGAS office at 2718 Telegraph Ave., #206, Berkeley, CA 94705 along with the coupon below. Tickets will not be sent. Your cancelled check is your receipt.

Golden Gate Audubon Society Annual Dinner
Friday, June 9th, 1978, 6:30 p.m.
at the
Great Electric Underground
Bank of America Center
555 California Street, San Francisco

Enclosed is my check for \$..... for dinners at \$10.

Name Phone

Address

Birding Mt. Diablo State Park



Mt. Diablo State Park in Contra Costa County has long been a favorite haunt of local birders, especially from mid-April through early June. Much of the park consists of grasslands, chaparral and oak woodlands. Due to the rains this past winter the

streams are running well now, which will improve the riparian areas this year.

Last summer's massive fire was mostly on the north side of the mountain and most of the usual birding spots were untouched. The fire was not generally the disaster shown on films; it did what nature used to do regularly — thin out the vegetation. Fire clears out dead wood bringing new growth and stimulates seeds of some plants; meanwhile, annuals thrive where they had been suppressed by heavy growth above them. There will be wildflowers this spring which have not been seen since the last big fire several years ago. The vegetation and food production and therefore the birds will be different in the fire area for the next several years.

Mt. Diablo is close to and easily reached from Danville or Walnut Creek; the former is generally easier due to lack of city traffic and traffic signals. From Interstate 680 in Danville, follow signs out Diablo Road to the park. About 7.5 miles from the freeway is *Rock City*, the first place parking is allowed on South Gate Road. This is about a mile beyond the South Gate Entrance Station where you should have \$1.50 handy for the entrance fee. Obtain a park map and purchase a bird checklist here (or at Headquarters if this station is unattended).

In past years we have been able to stop in pullouts along South Gate Road below the entrance station, but this is no longer allowed. Citations are now being given for parking there. Energetic hikers can walk back along the road from Rock City or may be dropped off along the road to walk up to that area. The best Black-chinned Sparrow area is a mile-long stretch from a point 5.6 miles from Interstate 680 to just before the entrance station. Also along this area are Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrow, sometimes Calliope Hummingbird in migration and occasionally Phainopepla near the entrance station. Chaparral species occur in good numbers: California Quail, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher and Orange-crowned Warbler. If you leave the park at dusk, watch for Poor-wills along this section of the road.

Rock City has an abundance of birds. Turn up the hill to the left and park near the road to *Live Oak Campground*. Check this entire area—MacGillivray's Warblers have been seen at Live Oak along with the usual chaparral species. Check the little spur roads up on the left at Rock City and also go down the hill below the restrooms across the main road. At the upper end of the Rock City loop on the left side of the road are two trails. The Summit Trail on the right follows the road, but take the lefthand trail and look for birds typically in more open and grassy areas. Watch overhead for hawks and swifts (Vaux's may be among the White-throated). Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow-rumped (both Myrtle and Audubon's), Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit and Wilson's Warbler have all been seen.

Drive on to *Arroyo Picnic Area* about a quarter mile beyond Rock City. In the picnic area on the righthand loop you might find gnatcatchers and several species of warblers. A short walk beyond the picnic tables the path reaches a large open spot with a good view of the area, affording a chance for Vaux's Swifts if they are around. Toward the bottom of the arroyo, House Wrens have been seen near an old barbed wire fence. Walk the path along the stream bed watching for wrens, vireos, warblers, Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeaks.

Curry Point affords a great view of the San Joaquin Valley to the east. A walk down Curry Canyon is pleasant and may produce kinglets, vireos and warblers in the trees along the righthand side of the road. Horned Larks and goldfinches are sometimes on either side of the road and swallows overhead. A short walk up the road is a wide turnout on the left with a gravel pile which often has Horned Larks on or near it. A half-mile beyond Curry Point and just beyond the turnoff to *Buckeye Campground* is a large turnout on the left. Go up the hill and follow the trail to the left through the trees. Woodpeckers, wrens (House Wren has nested here), Western bluebird and several species of warblers have been along here.

The next half mile, to the turnoff to *Barbeque Terrace*, goes through a grassy area that may have Horned Larks, Western Meadowlarks and Lark Sparrows. A walk through Barbeque Terrace and Wildcat Campground can be productive. Band-tailed Pigeons may be here in good numbers, especially in winter.

At the junction of South Gate with North Gate Road is *Park Headquarters*. (You can get information here if there was no one at the South Gate Entrance. You must stop and pay the park fee if that station was unattended.) *Junction Campground* should have woodpeckers, Western bluebird, several species of warblers and "Bullock's" Oriole. California Thrashers are usually in the chaparral across the road from the Headquarters.

About a quarter mile above the junction is *Sunset Picnic Area* which has woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch, California Thrasher, Swainson's Thrush, Western bluebird and several species of warblers. On April 30, 1977, an incredible number of warblers occurred here: 9 Orange-crowned, 3 Nashville, 10 Black-throated Gray, 60+ Hermit and 5 Wilson's were in the trees on both sides of the road!

Continue on the road to *Blue Oak* and *Oak Knoll* picnic areas (they run together). Many species seen further down the mountain can be found here plus several others. Trees around the tables at Blue Oak often have vireos and warblers. The gap in vegetation at the far end of the tables affords a good view of a grassy hillside; House Wrens sometimes skulk around bushes and downed trees, Band-tailed Pigeons may be atop snags. Lawrence's Goldfinches have been seen here along with American Goldfinches. Atop the knoll between Blue Oak and Oak Knoll, bluebirds are usually among the nesters. A walk through the trees should produce both Hermit and Swainson's Thrush. From the back side check trees between there and the Pioneer area across the arroyo for warblers, Western wood pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher. (I have heard Black-chinned Sparrows somewhere out in that area but never pinpointed them because they were so easy to find along South Gate Road). From the large open parking area at the upper end of Oak Knoll, wander through the nearby open stand of trees on the downhill side for flycatchers — Hammond's Dusky and Western have both been here in migration. In the chaparral at the upper end of this parking area look for Sage Sparrows. Across the road is a grass-covered arroyo with Summit Trail along its bottom. Rufous-crowned Sparrows have nested here.

Just beyond Oak Knoll is a road to the right to *Pioneer Area*. The road is closed to vehicles but is an easy walk; along this road watch and listen for Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrow in the chaparral.

About three-quarters of a mile beyond Pioneer is *Juniper Campground*. The very large paved turnout here affords a wide view of Diablo and San Ramon valleys. Drive down to the far end of the campground loop and park under the trees. Pewees, bluebirds, flycatchers and warblers are often in the trees; California Thrasher and Hermit Thrush are usually here. On the grassy hillside west of the parking area look for Horned Larks and Lark Sparrows. The Deer Flat Trail out from here can be good, especially in the trees along the first part of the trail. Grassland birds, including Horned Larks, are found further out the trail. In less than a mile the trail reaches the recently burned area; from there on the fire did considerable damage.

If you return via *North Gate Road* from the junction, look for Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Lark Sparrow, Rock Wren and California

Thrasher along the way. At the lower gate you may find Say's Phoebe during the winter.

In fall and winter the number of species on the mountain is far less. Joining the resident species are winter species such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Varied and Hermit Thrush, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Savannah, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrow.

Mt. Diablo, like most other state parks, has water, restrooms, picnic tables and camping areas. (There is also a good deal of poison oak.) The park opens at 8 a.m.; North Gate closes at 6 p.m.; South Gate at one hour after sunset.

—JEAN RICHMOND

Editor's note: We regret the lack of space for a map of the area covered in this article. However, Jean follows the free park map available at South Gate or Park Headquarters.

Master Plan for Golden Gate Park

"What would you like to add, maintain, increase, decrease and/or remove from Golden Gate Park?" This question was asked of people attending the first round of meetings on the Park Master Plan. Unfortunately, the publicity on the meetings was such that few people learned of them in time to attend. The planning team is interested in comments from individuals and groups regarding the Park's future. You can provide that input by responding to the above question and mailing it to The Plan for Golden Gate Park, Recreation and Park Department, McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94117.

Further meetings are scheduled for June and August. It seems improbable that notice of such meetings will be given early enough for publication in *The Gull*, so if you are interested in future participation in the planning sessions consult local San Francisco papers such as *The Progress* or the "Bay Calendar" section of *The Examiner*.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Celebrating Sun Day

May 3 is "Sun Day" across the country - a day to focus attention on the powerful potential of solar energy. The Berkeley Sun Day Committee, a coalition of many local organizations, has scheduled events from Sunday, April 30, to Wednesday, May 3. Other local celebrations will take place around the Bay Area. The April issue of the *Ecology Center Newsletter* carries full information.

Memoirs of a Naturalist

"People Are for the Birds" by Paul Covel is an account of his dealings with people (and birds) during the years he presided over the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Refuge in Oakland as well as of his years as an urban park naturalist. With the help of his wife Marion and some enthusiastic friends, Paul recounts what it was like to operate a wildlife refuge in the middle of a big city and how he dealt with the many personalities he encountered (birders, bird rescuers, shutterbugs and so forth). There is a liberal sprinkling of conservation tips and pleas, as well as do's and don'ts. The book is available through Western Interpretive Press, Box 27088 Dimond PO, Oakland, CA 94602 at a cost of \$7.99 by mail.

Questionnaire Results:

Last fall hesitantly, and not without a few doubts, your Board sent out a questionnaire in the September *Gull*. Nothing we had been told or read prepared us for the astounding 7% return you gave us. Public relations firms advised us that national average is 2.2%. The fact that your return was almost 5% higher than the national average speaks well for our society. From your answers we will be able to chart the future direction of GGAS and strengthen our base of operations. We were also able to draw a fairly accurate picture of who we are and what we want. We recognize that surveys such as this cannot be taken literally since not everyone responded but we believe that those of you who did are the concerned ones.

Some 1,000 hours (so far) of volunteer effort has gone into the compilation of this questionnaire and the following facts emerged:

The average member is over 50 years of age (50%) and has belonged to GGAS five years or less (64%). Reasons for joining were evenly split between conservation (31%) and birding (31%); 81% said their expectations at joining had been fulfilled.

Most members were also pretty evenly distributed on such questions as moral and financial support (48%) with 47% willing to do more. Christmas Count participation found 35% participating as against 36% never and 15% doing it more than once.

The annual dinner sees 47% attending a few times, 36% never, while 17% attend regularly. Members' interest in committees carries out their original interest in joining; 34% said they would be interested in conservation committee work, 26% are willing to attend public meetings and 51% willing to write letters.

Our members belong to 119 conservation organizations with Sierra Club (46%) at the top of the list followed by Oceanic Society (22%), National Wildlife Federation (19%) and Save the Bay (16%).

Seventy-six different outdoor interests were cited, with hiking (45%) and backpacking and camping (each with 18%) the first three favorites. GGAS members racked up an impressive list of 139 hobbies with reading (19%) and photography (15%) in the lead.

On one question (educational programs for young people), members left no doubt as to how they wanted that answered — 68% favored such programs. The Board has taken its cue from that resounding answer and is expanding our Bay Shore Studies program to the East Bay with a very strong Education Committee headed by Co-Chairpersons Jeff Gottfried in the East Bay and Kay Sternberg in the West Bay. The West Bay had a very successful program last year under hardworking Kay's leadership.

We are still answering all your queries. You not only answered our questions but asked a few of your own — one hundred and two to be exact.

—LENORE JOHNSEN, *President*

Attention Photographers

GGAS is starting to put together a slide library of birds of California. If you think you have better than average slides of any species common, migrant or vagrant to California, please call the office (843-2222) and the committee will arrange a viewing. Slides accepted will be duplicated for inclusion in the library.

Gifts and Bequests

FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH:

In memory of	Gift of
Roberta Long	Marie C. Brennan

FOR GGAS

"To Preserve a Marsh"	Jenny Eleanor Hebard
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Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Shirley Taylor. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.

Miscellany:

SPACE AVAILABLE. There are some spaces available on the Forum International trip to Churchill, July 17-23. For more information call the agency at 843-8294.

Two places on Paul Covel's cooperative Southeastern Arizona birding and botanizing tour, May 15-24, were available when this *Gull* went to press. Patagonia, Mile-Hi Ranch and Cave Creek Canyon are on the itinerary. For information, call Paul at 530-2513.

SEA VEGETABLE WORKSHOP. Learn to identify and gather several commonly eaten "seaweeds" on a rocky Marin beach and then travel to the Audubon Canyon Ranch to prepare and savor a delicious six to eight course sea vegetable dinner. Saturday, June 24; \$10. For reservations call 681-9062 by June 1.

ARROYO CHEAP THRILLS CBC BIRD COUNT. This May 7 count is a follow-up of the Christmas count in an area around Novato which produced a large variety of birds, including Prairie Falcon. The May survey will look for evidence of breeding birds. If you would like to participate call Stuart Johnston at the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, 868-1434.

PRBO WEEKEND WORKSHOPS. The May 20-21 "Bird Song" session at the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory will stress the identification of the sounds and songs of birds of the Pt. Reyes peninsula with two of the Bay Area's best bird sound people, Bob Stewart and Marie Mans. There is a fee of \$25; all proceeds will go towards a unidirectional microphone for PRBO.

The May 27-28 workshop, "Owls of California" with Bill Clow, will study the sounds, natural history, adaptations and field observations of owls of California. Owling will be in several excellent owl habitats in Carmel Valley where 5 species can be found. This is the height of the breeding season for other species as well. There is a \$40 fee.

PT. REYES NAT'L SEASHORE PROGRAMS. Two excellent seminars sponsored by PRNS are among many that are held there. Saturday, May 6 offers "Ecology of Pt. Reyes Birds" with Dave Shuford, and June 10-11 has "Breeding Birds and Their Habitats," with Bob Stewart which includes field trips to varying habitats including one morning studying birds caught in mist nets at PRBO. For full information on all programs and the fees involved, write Seminar Coordinator, Pt. Reyes Field Seminars, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956, or call 663-1200.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206

Berkeley, California 94705

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Dr. Robert C. Miller
California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco 18, California 94

THE GULL

May 1978

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The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**